



THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

May 2014 – Week 1

Air Date: May 4 – May 10 (Sunday – Saturday)

TITLE: SOLDIER, AGGIE, TEXAN

MAY 1910 AND A HEROIC AGGIE IS BORN.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THIS STATION AND THE SAVE TEXAS HISTORY PROGRAM OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

MAY 6, 1910. EDEN. JAMES EARL RUDDER HAD A HUMBLE START. A HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL STAR BEFORE GOING TO TEXAS A&M, HE BECAME AN ARMY OFFICER UPON GRADUATION. HE MARRIED, AND TOOK A JOB AS FOOTBALL COACH. THEN THE WAR CAME.

ON D-DAY, RUDDER'S RANGERS SCALED THE NORMANDY CLIFFS UNDER HEAVY FIRE AND SECURED VICTORY. WOUNDED TWICE, HE NEARLY DIED.

A MILITARY HERO BACK HOME, RUDDER WAS ASKED TO STEP IN AS LAND COMMISSIONER IN THE WAKE OF THE VETERANS LAND BOARD SCANDAL. RUDDER CLEANED HOUSE, AND RESTORED THE PROGRAM.

PRESIDENT OF A&M IN 1965, RUDDER TOOK THE SCHOOL CO-ED AND MADE INTO A WORLD-CLASS UNIVERSITY. IN '67, LBJ AWARDED RUDDER THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL.

JAMES EARL RUDDER WAS BORN 104 YEARS AGO, THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY.

LEARN MORE AT SAVETEXASHISTORY.ORG OR CALL 800-998-4GLO.

William N. Todd IV and Gerald Knappe, "RUDDER, JAMES EARL," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fru06>), accessed April 24, 2014. Uploaded on June 15, 2010. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

"James Earl Rudder Statue," *Texas A&M University* (<http://www.tamu.edu/about/attractions/rudderStatue.html>), accessed April 24, 2014.

Garry Mauro, *Land Commissioners of Texas* (Austin: Texas General Land Office, 1986).

Kent Biffle, "From D-Day to JFK, Rudder was there," *The Dallas Morning News*, Saturday, June 5, 2004 (http://inthenews.unt.edu/sites/default/files/PDF/2004/6/6/06_06_2004_DMN_FromDDay.pdf), accessed April 24, 2014.

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